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## The Passion for Disaster.

Has the Democratic party a mania to be on the losing side? Through its leaders it set itself against public sentiment, against the sentiment of many or most of its own members, against a traditional and triumphant Democratic policy, by opposing the retention of the Philippines Is it going in for a similar display of maudlin and futile Mugwumpery in the case of the Panama treaty?

There is plenty of Democratic warning and protest against the obstruction of a national demand and necessity. The Atlanta Constitution, speaking for the business interests of the South, says that "Southern Senators cannot escape the certain conviction that a vote from any one of them adverse to the treaty will be a vote against the urgent interests and demands of the progressive, producing and business interests of these Southern States."

Senator McEnery of Louisiana declares that "if the ratification could be crushed, there would be no Panama or Nicaragua canal.

"We are not idiots," said the leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives the other day. Mr. WILLIAMS can see a fact before it tumbles down on him. There are Democratic Senators of longer experience than his who, infatuated with mere opposition or their own prejudice, are doing their best to prove that he was misinformed as to the present state of Democratic intelli-

## Did Dr. Wood Pervert Mr. Root's Instructions?

Among the charges preferred in the Wood investigation by the Committee on Military Affairs there appeared one in reference to the use of ex parte testimony in the postal cases. Comparatively little seems to have been said upon this point during the hearings, but a question of no small importance is in-

A review of the proceedings of that now celebrated case gives prominence to two features of interest in connection with the alleged use of ex parte testimony in the course of the trial. One of these lies in the fact that Gen. Wood appears to have violated the orders of the Secretary of War; and the other in the fact that interrogatory letters, whether used as ex parte testimony or otherwise, were admitted in the postal trials contrary to there is room, therefore, to hope that the provisions of Spanish law.

The first of these features requires a review of a series of communications upon this topic which passed between of the Japanese Parliament, which has Gen. Wood and the War Department. In relieved the Mikado's advisers from the response to a request for an opinion on | violent pressure to which, otherwise, they the subject, the War Department, on might have been subjected. The field is Nov. 9, 1901, sent to the Military Gov- still open for diplomatic negotiations, ernor a letter of instructions, which laid and the influence of England on the one down the broad principle of Anglo- hand and of France on the other is sure Saxon law that ex parte testimony was inadmissible, and informed Gen. Wood that "in case it be the intention of the draft of Russia's reply, originally framed prosecution to make use as evidence in | at St. Petersburg, the substance of which the trial of the testimony applied for in was twice telegraphed to this country, the United States, you shall immediately | was, at the last moment, seriously modiinform the proper judicial authorities fied, the war party having recovered that this cannot be allowed."

The communication proceeds with a reference to an act of Congress, passed June 8, 1900, in regard to the "extradition of persons accused of crime in any for- alent concession on Japan's part with eign country, or any territory occupied | reference to Manchuria. There was good by or under the control of the United reason to believe that such a basis of States." This act guaranteed to all such agreement would have met with acceptpersons "a fair and impartial trial." The ance at Tokio, though the Japanese are letter of instructions declares that a under no illusions with regard to a lasting trial in which ex parte testimony is used accommodation of Russian interests and cannot be regarded as "a fair and im- their own. With Corea assured to her, partial trial," and therefore such testi- however, the Island Empire might deem mony cannot be used at the trial. It it expedient to defer a trial of strength further states that "any one of the facts until it should prove less difficult to obtestified to in said depositions that may tain in England or the United States the be considered necessary to sustain the loan which would be indispensable for prosecution shall have to be proved by the prosecution of protracted military oral testimony given by the witness operations. A contest between Japan before the Court, with opportunity to and Russia would almost certainly be a cross-examine." This letter states not only a law, but a principle of law. Replying to this, Gen. Wood addressed

to the Secretary of War a letter which declared that the procedure employed was "in strict accordance with the laws and practice in force in Cuba," and that every opportunity had been afforded to the defence to submit cross-interrogatories. The letter, dated Dec. 4, 1901, closes with the statement that the Military Governor "strongly recommends that the Court be permitted to judge in all that pertains to the admissibility of evidence, whether documentary or

Apparently enlightened by the elucidation of an intricate point in Spanish law as interpreted by a doctor of mediine, Secretary Root replied, under date of Dec. 6, that in view of the fact that all appeared to be straight and proper, his letter of Nov. 9 "is therefore to be deemed modified" so far as it affected "letters requisitorial upon which full and fair opportunity to file cross-interrogatories was afforded." This communication also cation between Vladivostok and Port provided that the Court should be left to determine the admissibility of such evidence upon its submission.

In view of this modification of the prohibitory letter of Nov. 9, quoted above, transmitted to the courts on Nov. 14, some interest attaches to the following vring on interior lines. extract from a letter addressed to the Audiencia of Havana by the Cuban Secretary of Justice, on Dec. 6:

The Military Governor directs me to inform ou that the letter of Nov. 14 (quoted above) and the instructions therein contained are by this letter repealed, and that the use of the results of inter-

Thus Secretary ROOT's instructions of

conditional modification and reference made, in order to convince the Czar that to the Court were transformed in the they were not neglectful of what has no doubt been represented as a matter of mind of the Military Governor into a vital import to Russia. Now that the redefinite and positive order of repeal of a quest has been submitted, and, of course, clearly stated principle of law, and into instructions to do that which the War rejected, it should be easier to convince Department had said, on Nov. 9, could not be done: namely, to make use of undisputed, that war can only be averted ex parte testimony in the trial before the by a frank recognition of Japan's claim Audiencia. It is to be remembered that Gen. Wood exercised legislative authority in the island, and a deduction by him became the law, and was therefore man- the fact that Russian Jingoes may predatory on the courts. Regarding the second feature of these

the testimony reported as given by

Secretary Root before the committee

on Dec. 16. He is reported as denying

that "Gen. Wood had issued military

orders nullifying the laws of Cuba by ad-

to the report of Mr. Root's testimony as

plained that the Cuban Court of First

Instance was in reality an officer di-

rected to prosecute and to obtain evi-

obtain evidence and procure affidavits.

was wrongfully ordered for use in the

Both of these features are matters of

not rest upon rumor, opinion or hearsay.

Gen. Wood here appears as so distorting

the written instructions of the Secretary

of War as to give them a meaning

the direct opposite of that mani-

festly intended. Testimony which is de-

clared to be inadmissible by both Ameri-

can and Spanish law was used in the

postal trials as a result of instructions

issued to the Cuban courts by Military

Governor Wood. The evidence of all

Revived Apprehension Over the

Russo-Japanese Dispute.

to Japan's proposals has been received

feature of the situation is the dissolution

There seems to be no doubt that the

told that Russia would recognize Corea as

lying exclusively within Japan's sphere

of influence, in return for an equiv-

ance, the former Power might find itself

through a superior power of endurance.

to be exerted in behalf of peace.

Although the reply made by Russia

this stands as matter of official record.

trial before the Audiencia.

to preponderance in Corea. While, however, we expect to see ne gotiations continue, we do not overlook cipitate a collision in the Far East, in which event it might prove not difficult to persuade the Czar that the nation's proceedings, reference may be made to honor was involved.

NICHOLAS II., whose desire for peace is

## The Sociology of Dr. Gaines.

The Hon. JOHN WESLEY GAINES, Representative in Congress of the Sixth mitting ex parte evidence." According Tennessee district, is regrettably parsimonious in his autobiography in the given by the Washington Star, he ex- | Congressional Directory:

" JOHN WESLEY GAINES, Democrat, of Nashville was elected to the Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, Fifty seventh and Fifty-eighth Congresses; is a lawyer

dence; that it resembled a Grand Jury, by profession and a native of his district." Two lines and a half in the Directory. and was further empowered to go out and The Hon. ROBERT BAKER of Brooklyn This may be fully admitted. The Court | feels himself crowded in forty-nine. Mr of First Instance is thus authorized. It Gaines does not spread upon the record may take into its consideration ex parte the fact that he is an M. D. Indeed, neither testimony, rumor, hearsay or gossip. It medicine nor law stirs him to as much may call upon witnesses to tell what they enthusiasm as farming. He is "a friend know or what they think. But this of the farmer," as he said proudly but process is strictly limited to the functions of the Court of First Instance, or Grand is "for the farmer first and the super- expenditures for this object are likely Jury, in the preparation of an indictment. The evidence thus gathered by the sociologist, too, and this same speech letters requisitorial, whether ex parte or contains rich and improving sociological subject to cross-examination, is not ad- material such as the Hon. LESTER missible in the court of trial, either in FRANK WARD and Prof. FRANKLIN the Cuban Audiencia or an American HENRY GIDDINGS have too rarely an court. The Cuban court of trial may, opportunity to amass. Here is a nugget | Shelby county, in that State, a fine agriunder the law, if it so chooses, make for Prof. McMaster or his imitators use of written testimony obtained at its and successors: own instance, duly sworn to and duly

"The negroes and laborers in the South, and possubjected to cross-examination. But it sibly elsewhere, rarely ever buy cigars. They has neither power nor right to make use rarely ever buy manufactured tobacco. If they of such letters obtained by the Court of doit is plug, for chewing. They prefer what they First Instance in the processes of pre- call 'old long green,' or 'old Lincoln twist,' as a paring an indictment. Therefore, while distinguished Republican called it the other day when talking about the twisted tobacco which he ex parte testimony was rightfully gathsaw down South during the civil war."

ered for use by the Court of First In-Then we get a still more interesting stance in preparing the indictment, it peep at Mr. GAINES's internal economy and the wrench it suffers in Washington: " You take corn that is incapable of doing any harm to anybody on earth, unless you eat too much official documentary record. They do corn bread-and I ate that until I came to Congress and I am very sorry that I do not get a chance to eat it now three times a day-but the corn is changed from corn into whiskey-entirely different from corn."

The poetical expression "corned" seems to indicate that in the transmutation from raw material into the wine of the country the Corn Spirit is not lost It is difficult to make out from Mr. GAINES'S perhaps intentionally obscure remarks as to the difference between solid and liquid or quintessential corn, whether he now has to content himself drought in the Capitol, or whether he mourns the loss of that unequalled corn bread which the Southerners will persist in making the Northerners sigh and with profound dissatisfaction at Tokio, try in vain for. What has become of it was in no sense an ultimatum, and the corn bread of yesteryear? Mr. GAINES seems to imply that it is not an understanding between the two countries may yet be reached. A favorable abundant in Washington, but is he not almost disloyal to a great name and institution in assuming that it is possible "to eat too much corn bread"?

Now Mr. GAINES takes us back to primitive times in Davidson county, before the internal revenue laws and the Tobacco Trust had begun to oppress the God-made man:

"It used to be, as I remember, when I was a boy at my native home, twelve miles from Nashville, that I could go down to my old neighbor, whose spirit long since took its everlasting flight, and there in his barn I could see long strings of twisted tobacco; all this he would sell. Then I have seen him crush it for smoking purposes, which he would put in boxes and give away to his neighbors as a ascendancy at the Court. We were twice

> Those Christmas boxes of smoking purposes are sent no more:

We are paralyzing the farmer, robbing him of his right to labor that GoD Aimighty has given him-Mr. GAINES is a philologian as well as a doctor, a lawyer and a poet:

" I will grant you, Mr. Chairman, that 'manu facture ' means something done with the handfrom manus, the hand, and faceo, [sic] to make,

Let us leave Mr. GAINES happy in that

#### Twenty-one Millions to Industrial Expositions.

Since 1862 the United States Government has aided eleven industrial expositions in this country and ten in foreign countries, the total amount approlong one; and, without financial assistpriated for them being \$21,107,852.15. unable to make head for years against | In 1862, while the Civil War was drawing an opponent who begins with a huge re- constantly and heavily on the national serve of gold. It is, of course, the knowl- resources, \$72,000 was appropriated for a display at the exposition in London. edge of Japan's pecuniary necessities that has led many Russians to think that | Five years later, while the nation was yet prostrate from the effects of the war. in the end their country must win \$212,703 was spent for an exposition in It is understood that Russia's reply in | Paris. In 1873 Vienna was the scene of the final form given to it by the war party a great fair, for which our Government terference with Russia's assertion of

insists that Japan shall refrain from in- expended \$200,000. In 1876 the Centennial Fair in Philaascendancy in Manchuria, and goes on delphia was held. The contribution of to suggest that the two parties to the ne- the Federal Government to it amounted gotiation shall enjoy equal rights in to \$2,533,184.59. Two years later there Corea. As such equality of rights exists was another great fair in Paris, for to-day, it is obvious that Japan would | which this country expended \$190,000. gain nothing by the maintenance of the In the following year the Sydney, New status quo in the peninsula. It is reported, | South Wales, world's fair was held, and moreover, on what seems to be good | Congress voted \$20,000 for the expenses authority, that the proposal regarding of our Government there. In the follow-Corea was qualified by the declaration ing year there was an exposition in that Russia must be permitted to occupy | Melbourne, Australia, at which we were and fortify Masampho, the possession represented, our expenses being \$58,000. of which Corean seaport would enable. In the same year we participated in the

her to safeguard maritime communi- Berlin exposition, spending \$20,000. In 1884 New Orleans and Louisville Arthur. A glance at the map will show Ky., held celebrations. For the New that a Russian occupation of Masampho Orleans show the Federal Government would be a grave menace to Japan, and expended \$1,650,000, and for the Louiswould deprive the latter Power of the ville affair \$10,000. In 1885 Cincinnati chief strategical advantage which her celebrated at an expense of \$157,750 to fleet now has, that, namely, of manœu- Uncle Sam. In 1888 Barcelona and Brussels gave expositions, in which we It is incredible that the authors of took part. The Spanish fair cost the the Russian reply should have expected United States \$28,380.26. The Belgian it to prove acceptable at Tokio, and we show received help to the extent of

must assume that it was put forward \$35,000 from us. solely for delay. Far from being a bar to In 1892 Miss COLUMBIA went to the further negotiations, it is calculated to Madrid industrial fair, her expenses invite them. It may have been neces- being \$25,000. In 1893 the United States sary for the peace party at St. Peters- held the Columbian Exposition at burg to let the request for Masampho be | Chicago. The cost to the nation was

sition received an appropriation of \$200,000. In 1896 \$130,000 was appropriated for the Nashville, Tenn., celebration. In the following year the Omaha fair received \$240,000, and in 1898 \$20,000 was appropriated for the fair in

Paris held another great exposition in 1900. There we spent \$1,722,504.66. The Pan-American Fair at Buffalo cost the national treasury \$1,015,000, and \$250,000 was spent by the Government at the Charleston, S. C., fair in the same year. Already \$6,478,000 has been contributed toward the St. Louis exposition, which is collecting admission fees, although it will not be complete until next year.

Bergen, Norway.

In aid of the Paris expositions the Government has spent nearly a tenth of all the money that has been appropriated for such affairs. Only three of the expositions in this country have received as large an appropriation from the national legislature as did the Paris exposition of 1900. Most of them were less pretentious than the French fairs.

President McKINLEY called national and international expositions "timekeepers of progress." Senator MITCHELL of Oregon, trying to get an appropriation for the Lewis and Clark centennial celebration in 1905, said in the Senate that they were "mighty national object lessons, inspirational in their tendency. They become more frequent and more superfluously in the House last week. He | popular year by year; and the nation's strata of society next." He is a friend of to increase rather than diminish as time passes.

> The Iowa Historical Society has collected some interesting information as to the stimulus given to immigration by our foreign born citizens. The Danish colony in cultural region, is said to be the largest in the Union. Three or four Danes settled there about twenty-five years ago. In letters to their friends at home they told of their advantages for farming. The colony began to grow. Since then the first member of a family to come over and settle in Shelby county has usually been the means of bringing over all the other members. Young men sent money home to bring their sweethearts. Passage money was often advanced by the earlier immigrants to those who came later. Many of these Danes have revisited their fatherland, and when they come back to their Western farms they usually bring one or two future citizens with them. The best advertising our country gets among the peasantry of Europe is certainly the reports of the thrifty immigrants who settle here.

# The Sea of Azov Not Drying Up.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: One espatch from Russia says that the Sea of Azov is disappearing, and another that it is drying up. This is startling news of a body of water which is the outlet for millions of bushels of Russian export wheat. Fortunately the report is not quite accurate.

The Sea of Azov is not drying up. It is silting up. Its chief water receipts are derived from that very dirty river, the Don, which spreads millions of tons of sediment a year over the shallow floor of the sea. This process with three whiskeys a day, owing to the has been going on for many ages and the alluvium from the Don has been narrowing the basin and raising the bed of the sea. The ruins of the town of Tanais, founded by

the Greeks at the very mouth of the Don, are now six miles inland. The results of the filling in process are appreciable from century to century, but still it is slow work. Aristotle himself remarked with regard to the extinc-tion of the sea that, "All the inhabitants will perhaps have disappeared before the change

is completed.

A more scientific prediction is rendered possible by modern studies. It is found that the mean depth of the whole sea is thirty-two feet; that the amount of sediment annually emptied into the sea is about 230,000,000 cubic feet, and that at this rate of progress the Sea of Azov will be filled up in about 58,000 years, a period sufficiently remote to mitigate any

a period sumdently remote to intigate any present anxiety.

The alarming report just circulated is due to a phenomenon that has occurred in the long, narrow arm of the sea known as the Gulf of Taganrog. The waters at Taganrog, the chief wheat port, receded so that for several days the bottom of the gulf was visible for two or three miles. "Vessels are lying high and dry and the greatest confusion prevails in the iry and the greatest confusion prevails in the harbor. High winds hurl clouds of sand

harbor. High winds hurl clouds of sand shoreward."

This is very uncomfortable for all concerned, but it is by no means unprecedented in the fulf of Taganrog. The mean depth of the gulf is only ten to twelve feet and it has diminished by nearly two feet since the first charts were made, in the time of Peter the Great. Under the influence of strong and persistent winds the level of the water is sometimes raised or lowered as much as ten or even sixteen or seventeen feet. When the level is lowered the bottom of parts of the gulf is sometimes exposed to view for several days. This is not a frequent phenomenon, but it occurs now and then. In spite of it, Taganrog will continue to be one of the chief southern ports of the empire for a long time to come.

New YORK, Dec. 20. NEW YORK, Dec. 20.

" Misplaced Applause at the Opera. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIE: At the opera the music lover is obliged to submit to the disturb-ance caused by the late comers, the talking of his neighbors, the rustling of the programmes and ther annoyances, which may be, in a sense, "local But why should every one be deprived of hearing the opera as the composer intended it to be heard by the applause of the thoughtless, who drown the orchestra with their misplaced enthusiasm?

At the matinde when "Alda" was sung the close of the opera (one of the most exquisite finales ever written) was completely destroyed by the too hasty applause, which made it impossible to hear he orchestra or the singers in the dying strains. at the four matinées now given I have never heard the orchestra finale to any aria or any act, and it seems to me that those who wish to hear a work n its entirety, those who have paid to hear it, should be protected from the ignorance of those who have not artistic sense enough to remain quiet and are too thoughtless to allow others to enjoy to the full he beauties of the representation

Would it not be proper to ask Mr. Conried to print on the programme a request that the audience refrain from applause until the orchestral close of number and of each act? The management performance, a request which has met with universal compliance, and probably the request to remain quiet would be approved in the s

The Stature of the Ainos of Japan.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Allow me to ect a statement, attributed in THE SUN to-day, to Prof. Frederick Starr, anthropologist of the University of Ch.cago, that "the Alnos of Yezo, lapan, are small, on an average, a little over three feet tall." The Ainos average in height from 4 feet 11 inches to 5 feet 1 inch and are therefore not

I have professionaly attended a number of these aboriginal people at Gen. Horace Capron's Agri-cultural School, in Tokio, directly opposite my pospital, at the foot of the hill of a hundred step (Atago-Yama). Proportionately the Ainos are better built than persons of the Japanese race. PHYSICIAN TO THE KAITAKU-SHI.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.

Mother Goose Revised. Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle, the cow lumped over the moon. 'It was the only course open," she explained: with turkeys so high, I had to do something to catch up." Seeing the little dog laugh, she comforted herself with the thought that he would soon be sausage.

Little Jack Horner sat in a corner, cating his Christmas ple. "I inserted my thumb," he lisped, "because it isn't polite to eat pie with a knife." Feeling himself an infant Chesterfield, he continued his repast.

The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe was sob-"I made a big mistake," she cried, "I should have chosen a Christmas stocking!"

Hereupon she wept afresh at the thought of all

# TREATY MAKING POWER. Will the Democrats Persist in Foreing

Foolish Assue? TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It appears that the Democratic leaders in the Senate have determined upon a vigorous arraignment of the President for his action n recognizing Panama and negotiating treaty with it, upon the ground that it is a violation not only of the Spooner act, but of the Constitution, the Treaty of 1846, and the principles of international law.

So far as the Spooner act is concerned, careful reading of it shows that the only instructions given to the President in that act were instructions as to what he should do after having negotiated a treaty with either Colombia or Nicaragua.

The first section of the act authorizes him

to purchase the rights of the French Panama Canal Company. The second section au-thorizes him to acquire the necessary territory from Colombia by treaty. The third section authorizes him to pay for the rights of the canal company and the territory acquired from Colombia; and provides that after he has done this, "he shall then \* \* cause to be excavated \* \* \* a ship canal from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean." The fourth section provides that if he shall

be unable to obtain a satisfactory title to the property of the canal company and the control of the necessary territory from Colombia, "then the President, having first obtained for the United States perpetual control by treaty, from Costa Rica and Nicaragua upon terms which he may deem reasonable,

\* \* shall \* \* cause to be excavated \* \* \* a ship canal and water-way from a point on the shore of the Caribbean Sea near Greytown, by way of Lake Nicaragua, to a point near Brito on the Pa-

The meaning of the act is clear. meant to authorize, not instruct, the Presi-dent to obtain by treaty, upon such terms as he deemed reasonable, from Colombia the necessary territory for the Panama Canal. could not do that, then to obtain by treaty the necessary territory from Costa Rica and Nicaragua; and in either case, having first obtained the necessary territory by treaty, he was instructed then to construct

the canal.

Senator Spooner, who is a sound constitutional lawyer, when he drafted the act knew perfectly well that Congress could not instruct the President to make a treaty. he also knew that Congress had a right to instruct the President as to what he should do with the property after the treaty was made, and he drew the act accordingly

I stated in a previous letter to The Sun that f any part of this act, rightly construed, instructs the President to make a treaty with Nicaragua, then such part is unconstitutional and void. To the authorities quoted in that letter I now desire to add others, which I think settle this question beyond doubt. George Washington presided over the con-

vention that framed the Constitution. ng the second term of his Presidential Adninistration, the Jay Treaty was submitted by him to the Senate and ratified by that body. There was much opposition throughout the country to this treaty, and after its ratification the House of Representatives, efore voting for the appropriations necessary to carry it into effect, passed a resolution calling upon the President for the facts in connection with its negotiation. ington declined to transmit the desired information, in a message in which he said:

Having been a member of the general convention and knowing the principles upon which the Con-stitution was formed. I have ever entertained but one opinion upon this subject, and from the first establishment of this Government to this moment my conduct has exemplified that opinion, that the power of making treaties is exclusively vested in the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, provided two-thirds of the Senators and promulgated thenceforward became the law of the land. . . As it is essential to the due administration of the Government that the boundaries fixed by the Constitution between the differ ent departments should be preserved, a just regard to the Constitution and to the duties of my office under all the circumstances of this case, forbid a compliance with your request.

James Madison, who had taken a most prominent part in the deliberations of the Constitutional convention, and whose letters in the Federalist had contributed so largely to the adoption of the Constitution framed by that body, was at this time the leader in the House of the opposition to the treaty. With his approval, a resolution in answer to the President's message was passed by the

the Constitution that the President shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur, the House of Repesentatives do not claim any agency in making treaties.

The resolution, however, went on to state the constitutional right of the House to determine for itself as to the expediency of passing such laws as were necessary to carry out the stipulations of a treaty. We have thus the concurrent declaration

of the President and the House of Representatives of that day to the effect that the

treaty making power is vested by the Con

stitution exclusively in the President and the

Senate, and that the House can have no agency in making treaties. What would eorge Washington have said if Congress had instructed him to make a treaty? As to the right of the House to decide for itself as to the legislation necessary to carry out a treaty, that question, as Mr. Wharton says, in his International Law Digest, remains still open; but in the case of the Panama treaty, if it is ratified by the Senate, it is not at all probable that the Republican majority in the House will hesitate to make the appropriations necessary to earry it out It remains to be seen whether the Demo crats in the Senate will carry their opposition to the point of voting against the treaty. As a two-thirds vote will be necessary for its ratification, if united they may defeat it; but several Democratic Senators have already announced their opinion as to the impolicy of such action. There is no doubt that a large majority of the people of this country are in favor of the ratification of the treaty and the immediate construction of the canal, and the people of the South are more interested in its speedy completion than those of any other part of the country. Can the Democratic Senators afford to defeat this

of any other part of the country. Can the Democratic Senators afford to defeat this measure?

For them to assume such a position on the eve of a Presidential campaign would be most unwise, and would assuredly result in a defeat even more crushing than the Democrats experienced in the second election of Mr. McKinley as the consequence of their opposition to his Philippine policy.

On the other hand, if they are not prepared to carry their opposition to the extent of voting against the treaty, are they not placing themselves in a most embarrassing position by their denunciations of the President for his action in negotiating it? If, as they claim, their objections are based on principle, how can they justify themselves in descring their principle even at the last moment? With what consistency can they vote, even under protest, for the ratification of a treaty which they have denounced as an unlawful exercise of the President's power? If, as they now contend, the President's action in recognizing the independence of Panama, and in preventing Colombia from invading it to suppress the revolution, was an outrage on Colombia and a violation of our guarantee under the Treaty of 1846, if it was in opposition to the law of nations applicable in such cases, and was a usurpation of power denied by the Constitution, how can they by a vote to ratify the treaty approve the very action which they now so velemently denounce? by the Constitution, now can they by a vote to ratify the treaty approve the very action which they now so vehemently denounce?

How can they vote to take the benefit of such an outrage? If, to use Senator Hoar's simile, the big policeman has confiscated Colombia's pocketbook, how can they, while denouncing his act, vote to keep the pocket-book?

denouncing his act, vote to keep the pocket-book?

I am reminded of the story of the colored preacher, who was informed that one of his deacons had stolen a Christmas turkey. He called upon the culprit and found him seated at the table, surrounded by his household, and just about to carve the turkey, which was cooked as only a Southernnegress knows how to cook a turkey. The preacher eyed him sternly and said: "Brudder Johnson, you hab broken de Eighth Commandment, you hab broken de Eighth Commandment, you hab broken de Eighth Commandment, you hab disgraced yourself and brought dishoner on de church—but the sin is done committed and the turkey is done done. I'll jest ask a blessing, and den you can gib me a piece of the breast and a side bone, with plenty of stuffing, for I'se awful fond of stuffing. When the time comes will the Democrats refuse their portion of the turkey? J. S. T.

\$5,840,329.64. In 1894 the Atlanta expo- THE PANAMA CANAL AND THE THE "PARSIFAL" DISCUSSION. Clerical Opposition Pronounced Ignorant and Inconsistent.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is a pitiful spectacle to see a number of the clergy attempt, in their confused conception of the musical drama of "Parsifal," to bewilder the minds of their congregations as to its pro-priety and meaning. Evidently their con-fusion of mind is due to ignorance of the historical origin and significance of their own Church ceremonial, ignorance which causes in them timidity as to the possible danger to a proper respect in their churches for what is largely but theatrical ceremonial developed from mediæval theatrical performances. They forget, or they do not know, that the old miracle play bridged over the passage from the antique classical drama to the nodern play, the church offering itself on its

festival occasions as its stage.

I am told that even Dr. Parkhurst has a tended, and no doubt paid for admission to. the Oberammergau play. Now, why should he object to Bayreuth? These objecting clergymen attend the "Messiah," the "St. Matthew's Passion" and other oratorios on the concert stage, to enjoy their musical charm, paying admission. They go to museums to see paintings of the Nativity and Crucifixion in close proximity to Jupiter descending on Danaë in a shower of gold or approaching Leda in the shape of a swan, while the Holy Ghost as a pigeon visits the Madonna. do they not go for sensuous enjoyment of the beauty of the painting? If these gentlemen were consistent they should object to any form of art or poetry treating the subjects which they claim as sacred.

form of art or poetry treating the subjects which they claim as sacred.
Certainly it cannot be asserted that "Parsifal' approaches its subject in an irreverent or scoffing manner. Bishop Burgess admits this, in finding no fault with those who see but the myth or legend in that which he says is a hard fact for the believer.

There seems to be at the bottom of all these objections the old Calvinistic, Puritan, iconoclastic spirit which attempted to do away with all Church ceremonial and refused to recognize the dogma of transubstantiation in connection with the mass and communion service. Not even the Episcopal Church seems to regard this as a well defined article of faith. Then why should the Protestant clergyman make such objection?

The true spirit in which a Christian minister should meet this performance, it appears to me, is to welcome gladly a demonstration of that idealism which is the chief support of religion and will assert itself and will be satisfied, whether in church or through poetry or music, pictorial art or dramatic act, and any form in which it appears in high and exalted shape, presenting a serious thought which arouses and stimulates only the best there is in human nature.

New York, Dec. 21. NEW YORK, Dec. 21.

# Clerical Objections to the Opera Sus-

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: All honor to the Rev. David J. Burrell of New York, who has followed the example of Bishop Burgess of Long Island and other clergymen in protest ing against the reproduction of "Parsifal" I was present recently at an illustrated lecture in Philadelphia descriptive of the opera in question, and was exceedingly pained by a number of the pictures shown on the canvas and still more by the words which described them. The personality of the lecturer (who gracefully prefaced her remarks by words evidently intended to prevent he audience from being shocked by what was to follow), the pleasing pictures which alternated with those of a religious nature, and the strain of Wagnerian music were adjuncts which to some might have had the effect of toning down what otherwise would have appeared to them sacrilegious. However, it took but little discernment to see the close connection between the persons and things represented and the person and things which we consider most holy. In fact, the similarity was so close that without the explanation of the lecturer the persons represented and the words spoken would undoubtedly have been considered as being taken from sacred history. They were practically the same, and caused one to shudder at the profanity of the drama, and to realize that we are indeed living in irreverent times. with those of a religious nature, and the strain

mes. No amount of attempted explanation can respect to the drama of "Parsifal" from dissociate the drama of "Parsifal" from those things which Christians look upon with the deepest reverence. There are some sailing under the banner of so-called "Higher culture," who consider themselves so broad minded and charitable that they can enjoy such representations and will pity the critic of "Parsifal" as uncultured, narrow minded and totally unfit to form a reasonable judg-

and totally unit to form a reasonable judgment.

Bishop Burgess, in speaking of those who see in our Bless of Lord only the man, justly says: "Let such cultured pagans—and there are countless numbers of them—enjoy their Christmas as they will, and Jutter no protest. But for those who believe, this playing with the sacred parts of His life becomes abhorrent."

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21. J. T.

A Catholie Defence of "Parsifal." TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In regar That it being deciared in the second section of | to the protests of the Protestant clergy of this city against the performance of "Parsifal," city against the performance of "Parsial," I beg to call attention to the fact that, next to Spain, Bavaria is known as the most bigoted country in Europe, and that all stage performances are under the strict censorship and supervision of the State; and yet neither the authorities nor the public have ever seen anything sacrilegious in the beautiful legend of the Grail or in the divine music of Richard Wagner. Here is another proof how much less narrow the Roman Church is in matters of art and science than she is reported to be among the ever protesting Protestants. among the ever protesting Protestants.
FACT, Not Fiction.

## NEW YORK, Dec. 21. THE EREE LECTURES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I am sorry to see the question of the competency of the "free lecturers of the Board of Education raised, but left as it is in your issue of Dec. 17. No one probably would welcome a practical plan to improve the fre lectures more than the present Supervisor. Dr Leipziger. It may be a mistake not to have fewer "lecture centres" than at present in the Greater New York. In that case the Department might be able to pay, instead of the \$10 a lecture at comman

New York. In that case the Department might be able to pay, instead of the \$10 a lecture at command now, the \$25, \$50, \$100 and upward necessary to secure the services of such men as Prof. Stoddard, who was regarded by many beside your correspondent as the foremost lecturer on travel—but I believe he is now dead.

Butby doing so thousands of people in the poorer outlying sections of the city would not have the very considerable instruction and entertainment they now lisve once a week. Progress is not by leaps, but by slow, gradual steps. The value of these free lectures is not to be measured by persons like your correspondent. In the varied list are to be found the names of the best.

There are and must be a great many new lecturers. Experience as well as ability are required in public speaking, just as in criticism. The principal of the public school at each lecture to present to the Supervisor, and in addition to that inspectors constantly go the rounds and also report. So probably your "travelled" correspondent has no better knowledge of a single lecture he may have heard than the Supervisor himself, while he needs but a silght experience with the lectures given regularly at the Museum of Natural History, where the lecturers' ability is beyond question and every means afforded to have the best regardless of expense, to know that there is a great unevenness in the results.

the results.

If your correspondent, who seems to have travelled extensively in Europe among the scenes deflected in the lecture to which he particularly objects, will prepare such a lecture as he thinks good either from his own negatives or from the often the corresponding to he purchased abroad. I think very fine ones to be purchased abroad, I think I can say to him that he will find if his lecture is esnecially excellent he would not be limited, in such a case, to the comparatively small fee of \$10, and I venture to say also that he might find the Supervisor more critical than he evidently takes him to be. NEW YORK, Dec. 17.

TAPPAN ADNET.

#### A Grave Defect in the Lectures TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The free lect

are course is open to criticism because of the neg ect of American topics. In a community four fifths of whom are of foreign parentage it seem that the first object should be to teach th seem that the first object should be to teach the audiences something of American history and American aspirations: but such lectures as I have heard would have been just as appropriate in Berlin as in New York, and in looking over the daily pro-grammes I see very little that is likely to add to a knowledge; of our own land. The idea of a free lecture course is no doubt good, and the lectures afford a place of harmless resort for the young neople who compose the audiences in most part; but while the city is paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for this, it would be well to teach them also something of the country in which they live.

BROOKLYN, Dec. 21.

Concerning Slavery in the Aleutian Islands. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your washington correspondence of Dec. 18, published in THE SUN of the 19th, occurs this passage Dr. Jackson said the principal offending slave-owners were not the native Aleutians, but foreign-ers—Germans. Frenchmen, Americans and men of other nationalities who had married native Aleutian women and among whom the possession of slaves was considered a mark of wealth.

Permit me to reply I never said any such thing. knowledge of the existence of any slavery at present in the Aleutian Islands.

SRELDON JACKSON.

General Agent of Education in Alaska.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.

ment organ, sends that paper an article in which he says: "From what can be gleaned here the Dominion Government is in earnest in the desire for Newfoundland to enter the union and would not be disposed to haggle unduly over the terms in any huckstering spirit It is well known that, all hough there was at one time some opposition in Newfoundland to the idea of union with Canada. that feeling has to a great extent passed

PLANNING CANADIAN UNION.

Liberal Terms Would Be Granted to New-

foundland.

spondent of the Globe, the leading Govern-

TORONTO, Dec. 22 .- The Ottawa corre-

"Perhaps it is not generally known that in 1869 the Council and Legislature of New-foundland were willing to cast in their lot with Canada, and a conference took place at Ottawa which resulted in terms being agreed upon. For some reason or other the whole thing was allowed to drop. As to the acquisition of Greenland, it would be reasonable to infer that the Danish Government are being asked whether they will part with the island or not. If Delmark will be the control of the control will sell, Canada will purchase. This in mistakably is the attitude of the Dominio Government in the matter.

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## NEW EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. Legislative Committee Plans a Complete Reorganization.

ALBANY, Dec. 22 .- The legislative committee, discussing the problem of how to bring about a unification of the two State educational departments, has determined to prepare an entirely new bill, in the hopthat a practical scheme of unification may thereby be evolved which can be made

law by the next Legislature.

At the close of the sitting of the committee to-day it was announced that the committee had spent considerable time discussing such a bill and that, while its laborated by the committee had spent considerable time discussing such a bill and that, while its laborated had not been considerable. cussing such a bill and that, while its labor-had not been completed, it looked to the members as if it would be possible to bring about a substantially unanimous agreement of the committee upon a measure. The proposed bill, it was said, will partake of the nature of a reorganization of the entire educational administrative scheme in the State, rather than of a compromise proposition agreeable to the present promise proposition agreeable to the pre-ent departments. As several of the mem-bers of the committee were not present a the sittings yesterday and to-day, the committee determined not to divulge anything of the nature of its tentative bill. The committee adjourned to meet in this city

#### TO TEST NEW MINING LAWS. Coal Companies to Attack the Lobby Made Statutes at Harrisburg. POTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 22.- The anthracite

coal companies have united to test the constitutionality of the freak labor laws passed by the last Pennsylvania Legislature at the dictation of the United Mine Workers-Judge Shafer of Pittsburg has just declared Judge Shafer of Pittsburg has just declared unconstitutional the law prohibiting the employment of boys in the mines, and this is to be followed up by attacks on the laws establishing a home for miners and doubling the number of State mine inspectors.

The appointment of ex-Sheriff James Martin as mine inspector in Luzerne county, a place to which, it is said, he is ineligible, will afford an opening for testing the inspector act. The United Mine Workers' organization maintained a lobby at Harrisburg during the entire session of the last two Legislatures, but many of their most important bills, the passage of which were secured by dickering with politicians, were vetoed by the Governor and the presence were vetoed by the Governor and the propects now are that the courts may declar all the remainder unconstitutional.

## BETTER TREATMENT IN MEXICO Of American Rallway Employees Who Are Charged With Negligence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.-As a consequence of Ambassador Clayton's representations to the Mexican Foreign Office, an important to the Mexican Foreign Office, an important circular letter has been issued by the Mexican Department of Justice and sent to the District and Circuit courts throughout that republic, advising against the arrest and imprisonment of American railway employees except upon a strong presumption of guilt, and directing them in all cases to except upon a strong presumption of guilt, and directing them in all cases to except upon a strong presumption of guilt, and directing them in all cases to except upon a strong presumption of guilt, and directing them in all cases to except upon a strong presumption of guilt. to expedite the judicial proceedings arapidly as possible.

Provision for the release of the accused

on bail is also made wherever the nature of the offence will permit, and it is observed that this is usual in cases of negligence

## PLENTY OF MONEY IN NEBRASKA. Banks' Quarterly Statement Shows an In-

crease Over Last Year's Deposits

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 22. The quarterly statement of the banks of Nebraska shows an increase in deposits over the correspondan increase in deposits over the corresponding quarter of last year of \$2,580,000. There has been a slight decrease of deposits since September, due to cattle investments. Only a part of the wheat crop and scarcely any of the corn has yet moved, and when this begins, deposits will be much higher. The deposits of Nebraska banks in the East-bays invested readly a million to \$8,340,000. have increased nearly a million to \$8,340,000 and the net cash on hand has gone up over

## NO MACHEN RAKE-OFF NOW. Post Office Gets Leather Straps for 5 Cents Formerly Paid 18.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 .- A commission appointed by the Postmaster-General has awarded the contract for furnishing the Department with the leather straps used by carriers in bundling their mail to Hoad ley & Farmer of Newark, N. J., at 4. and 6 cents each, respectively, for the thresizes of straps used.

Under the regime of ex-Supt. Machen of the free delivery division these straps cost the Department 12½, 15 and 17½ cents each. Machen received a graft commission. sion on the straps bought of about 2 cents

Degradation of Baltimore Society Alleged A radical change not for the better is obmanners, morals, mind and all that made t ocial life of the Monumental City its elegance, culture, polish and aristocratic re nnement. Formerly it was the most conservati and exclusive of American cities; now its sode is the most mixed and the least aristocratic

When Baltimore was a little city of 50,000 inhal tants, it was a distinction and a privilege to be as mitted into its best society. Money alone we not an open sesame to that grand old Baltim society: but birth, breeding, refinement we Genius was welcome there, no matter what origin was: William Wirt, the son of a tavern keeper, but possessed of rare genius polished manners, became an ornament of that proud old Baltimore society. Now that Baltimore is a city of \$50,000 inhabitan any men or woman, who is not absolutely di-reputable, who has money, and spends it wi

#### judicious liberality, is received into what is call the society of Baltimore. The Glories of Arizona

From the Business Woman's Macanine ourist and settler. The ozonized atmospher the plateaus imparts a wonderful feeling. or tones of the sky and distant mountain peak the deep translucent azures and pearl gray to in the clear vault of heaven, and the wonder purple tones of the distant hill, all have more char for the traveller than the clear sky of the Sahat the balmy air of the Nile, or the dreamy sunit, of the shores of the Mediterranean.

This section of our great country, hidden within the vast stretches of Uncle Sam's domain, 1.2 miles from the nearest seaport, nearly surrounde by mountain ranges, separated from California b a desert, was the last to admit American civili being developed. Its fertile valleys are being cattle and slicep. Progress in population a development of resources are so remarkable the outlook is indeed bright for a prosperous a

# happy future under a State form of government The Ruling Passion.

Knicker—So old Bookie was "horsy" to the last Bocker—Yes, he left directions that his burial should be printed under Turf Events.

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